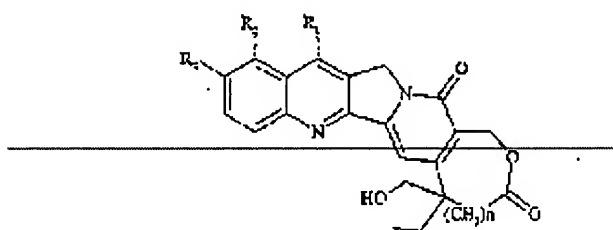


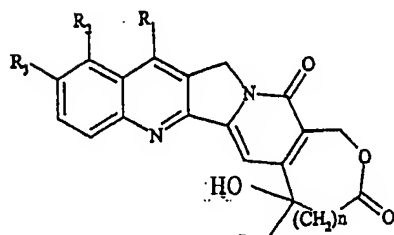
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

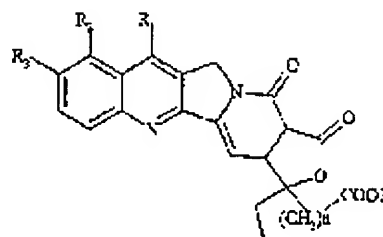
1. (Currently Amended) ~~Compounds~~ A compound of formula (I) or formula (II)



(I)



(I)



(II)

where:

R₁ is hydrogen or a -C(R₅)=N-O-R₄ group, in which R₄ is hydrogen or a straight or branched C₁-C₅ alkyl or C₁-C₅ alkenyl group, or a C₃-C₁₀ cycloalkyl group, or a straight or branched (C₃-C₁₀) cycloalkyl - (C₁-C₅) alkyl group, or a C₆-C₁₄ aryl group, or a straight or

branched (C₆-C₁₄) aryl - (C₁-C₅) alkyl group, or a heterocyclic group or a straight or branched heterocyclo - (C₁-C₅) alkyl group, said heterocyclic group containing at least one heteroatom selected from an atom of nitrogen, optionally substituted with an (C₁-C₅) alkyl group, and/or an atom of oxygen and/or of sulphur; said alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-alkyl, aryl, aryl-alkyl, heterocyclic or heterocyclo-alkyl groups can optionally be substituted with one or more groups selected from the group consisting of: halogen, hydroxy, C₁-C₅ alkyl, C₁-C₅ alkoxy, phenyl, cyano, nitro, and -NR₆R₇, where R₆ and R₇, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched (C₁-C₅) alkyl, the -COOH group or one of its pharmaceutically acceptable esters; or the -CON₈R₉ group, where R₈ and R₉, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched (C₁-C₅) alkyl; or

R₄ is a (C₆-C₁₀) aroyl or (C₆-C₁₀) arylsulphonyl residue, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from: halogen, hydroxy, straight or branched C₁-C₅ alkyl, straight or branched C₁-C₅ alkoxy, phenyl, cyano, nitro, -NR₁₀R₁₁, where R₁₀ and R₁₁, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched C₁-C₅ alkyl; or:

R₄ is a polyaminoalkyl residue; or

R₄ is a glycosyl residue;

R₅ is hydrogen, straight or branched C₁-C₅ alkyl, straight or branched C₁-C₅ alkenyl, C₃-C₁₀ cycloalkyl, straight or branched (C₃-C₁₀) cycloalkyl - (C₁-C₅) alkyl, C₆-C₁₄ aryl, straight or branched (C₆-C₁₄) aryl -(C₁-C₅) alkyl;

R₂ and R₃, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, hydroxy, straight or branched C₁-C₅ alkoxy;

n = 1 or 2,

Z is selected from hydrogen, straight or branched C₁-C₄ alkyl;

the N₁-oxides, the racemic mixtures, their individual enantiomers, their individual diastereoisomers, their mixtures, and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts, with the proviso that, in formula (I), R₁, R₂ and R₃ cannot be simultaneously hydrogen and with the proviso that, when R₁ and R₂ are hydrogen, R₂ is not -OH or -OCH₃.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~compounds~~compound according to claim 1, in which, in formula (I), n is 1.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~compounds~~compound according to claim 1, in which, in formula (II), n is 1.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~compounds~~compound according to claim 2, selected from the group consisting of:

- R,S-7-methoxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-ethoxyiminomethyl- homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-isopropoxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-(2-methylbutoxy)iminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-(1-t-butoxy)iminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-(4-hydroxybutoxy)iminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7- triphenylmethoxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin.
- R,S-7-carboxymethoxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S- 7-aminoethoxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin
- R,S- 7-(N,N-dimethylaminoethoxy)iminomethyl-homocamptothecin

- R,S-7-allyloxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-cyclohexyloxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-cyclohexylmethoxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-cyclooctyloxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-cyclooctylmethoxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-benzyloxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-(benzyloxy)iminophenylmethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-(1-benzyloxy)iminoethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-(1-t-butoxy)iminoethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-p-nitrobenzyloxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-p -methylbenzyloxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-pentafluorobenzyloxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-p-phenylbenzyloxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-(2,4-difluorobenzylmethoxy)iminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-(4-t-butylphenylmethoxy)iminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-(1-adamantyloxy)iminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-(1-adamantylmethoxy)iminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-(2-naphthalenyloxy)iminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-(9-anthracenylmethoxy)iminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-(6-uracyl)methoxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7- (4-pyridil)methoxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-(2-thienyl)methoxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin;
- R,S-7-[(N-methyl)-3-piperidinyl]methoxyiminomethyl-homocamptothecin; and

— R,S-7-hydroxyiminophenylmethyl-homocamptothecin.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~compounds~~compound according to claim 3, selected from the group consisting of:

— { 10-[(E)-(ter-butoxyimino)methyl]-3-ethyl-1,13-dioxo-11,13-dihydro-1H,3H-furo[3',4':6,7]indolizino[1,2-b]quinolin-3-yl}acetic acid

— (10-{ (E)-[(benzyloxy)imino]methyl}-3-ethyl-1,13-dioxo-11, 13-dihydro- 1H, 3H-furo[3',4':6,7]indolizino[1,2-b]quinolin-3-yl)acetic acid

— (3-ethyl-1,13-dioxo-11,13-dihydro-1H,3H-furo[3',4':6,7]

— indolizino[1,2-b]quinolin-3-yl)acetic acid, and

— ter-butylic ester of (3-ethyl-1,13-dioxo-11,13-dihydro-1H,3H-furo[3',4':6,7]indolizino[1,2-b]quinolin-3-yl)acetic acid.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~A process for the preparation of a formula (I) ~~compounds~~compound according to claim 1 in which R₁ is hydrogen and ~~R₂ and R₃ are as defined above,~~ comprising:

a) reduction of the keto group in position 19 of the camptothecin, ~~optionally substituted with the envisaged meanings of~~ in which the groups R₂ and R₃ have the meaning as in formula (I), to yield the 19,20 19,20-dihydroxy-derivative;

b) treatment of the derivative obtained in step a) with periodate and acetic acid, to obtain ~~the~~ opening of the E ring;

c) Reformatsky reaction on the derivative obtained in step b); and

d) formation of the E ring where n is 1 or 2.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~A process for the preparation of a formula (I)
~~compounds~~compound according to claim 1, in which R₁ is a -C(R₅)=N-O-R₄ group ~~and R₂, R₃,
R₄ and R₅ are as defined above~~, comprising:

a) transformation of the camptothecin, optionally substituted with ~~the envisaged~~
~~meanings of R₂ and R₃ have the meanings as in formula (I)~~, to ~~7-(d-~~
~~methoxymethyl)camptothecin~~7-(dimethoxymethyl)camptothecin;

b) reduction of the keto group in position 19 of the 7-
~~(dimethoxymethyl)camptothecin~~, to yield ~~the~~a derivative 19, 20-dihydroxy;

c) treatment of the derivative obtained in step b) with periodate and acetic acid, to
obtain ~~the~~the opening of the E ring; and

d) Reformatsky reaction on the derivative obtained in step c);

e) treatment of the compound obtained in step d) with a formula R₄ONH₂ oxime and
simultaneous formation of ring E where n is 1 or 2.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~A process for the preparation of a formula (II)
~~compounds~~compound according to claim 1 in which R₁ is hydrogen ~~and R₂ and R₃ are as defined~~
~~above~~, comprising:

a) reduction of the keto group in position 19 of the camptothecin, optionally
substituted with ~~the envisaged meanings of R₂ and R₃ have the meanings as in formula (II)~~, to
yield ~~the~~a derivative 19,20-dihydroxy;

b) treatment of the derivative obtained in step a) with periodate and acetic acid, to
obtain ~~the~~the opening of the E ring;

- c) Reformatsky reaction on the derivative obtained in step b);
- d) treatment of the derivative obtained in step c) with PDC with formation of the E ring and, if so desired;
- e) transformation of the Z group to hydrogen.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~A process for the preparation of a formula (II) compounds~~compound~~ according to claim 1 in which R₁ is a -C(R₅)=N-O-R₄ group and R₂, R₃, R₄ and R₅ are as defined above, comprising:

a) transformation of the camptothecin, optionally substituted with the envisaged meanings of R₂ and R₃, to 7-(dimethoxymethyl)camptothecin;

b) reduction of the keto group in position 19 of the 7-(dimethoxymethyl)camptothecin, optionally substituted with the envisaged meanings of R₂ and R₃, to yield the a derivative 19,20-dihydroxy;

c) treatment of the derivative obtained in step b) with periodate and acetic acid, to obtain the opening of the E ring;

ed) Reformatsky reaction on the derivative obtained in step c);

de) treatment of the derivative obtained in step ed) with PDC with formation of the E ring;

ef) treatment of the compound obtained in step de) with an oxime of formula R₄ONH₂ and, if so desired,

fg) transformation of the Z group to hydrogen.

10.-12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Pharmaceutical~~ A pharmaceutical composition containing a therapeutically effective amount of at least one compound according to claim 1 in admixture with pharmaceutically acceptable vehicles and excipients.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Pharmaceutical~~ The pharmaceutical composition according to claim ~~14~~ 13, in which the ~~other~~ composition also contains as an active ingredient ~~is an~~ anticancer agent.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for inhibiting topoisomerase I in a subject in need of such inhibition comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of ~~Use of a~~ compound according to claim 1, ~~for the preparation of a medicament with topoisomerase I inhibiting activity.~~

17. (Currently Amended) A method for treating ~~The use according to claim 16 for the preparation of a medicament useful for the treatment of tumours in a subject in need of such treatment comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of claim~~ 1.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a ~~The use according to claim 16 for the preparation of a medicament useful for the treatment of parasitic or viral infections~~ infection

in a subject in need of such treatment comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

19. (New) The method of claim 17, in which the tumor is a lung tumor.